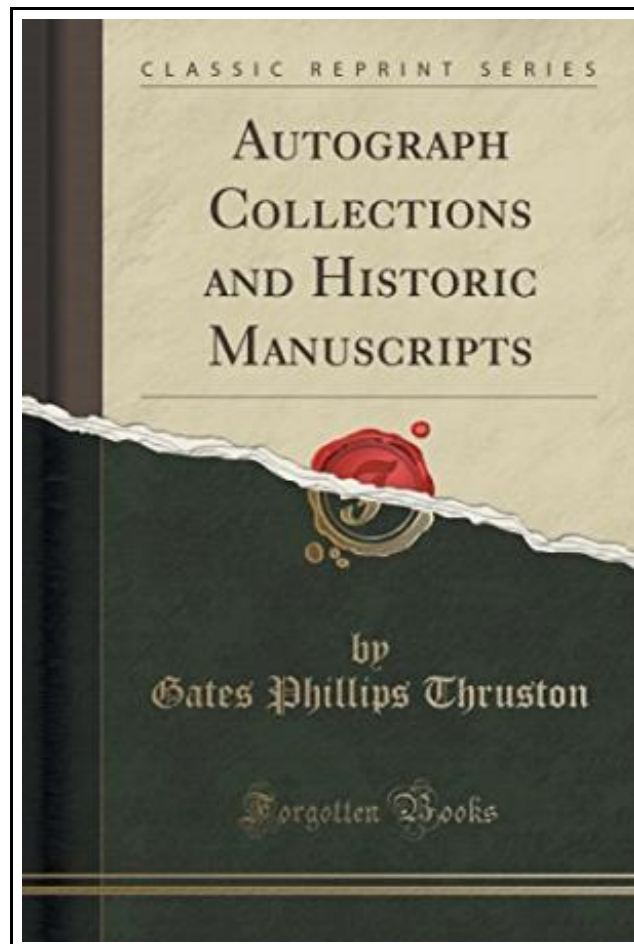


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Autograph Collections and Historic Manuscripts The title of this paper should perhaps be The Autograph Mania. I am not an autograph collector in the ordinary acceptation of that term. I have only a kind of collateral interest in the subject, and in the more serious subject of collecting books and manuscripts. There have been several important autograph sales recently in the city of Philadelphia, and by some chance the handsomely illustrated catalogues were sent to me, giving the prices paid for the various manuscripts and autograph letters, and in a measure reviving the interest I felt in my younger days in this fascinating hobby, for with many collectors it is merely a hobby. These sales have suggested some reflections on the general subject. The student of history naturally drifts into an interest in manuscripts, letters, and documents relating to events and men of note. The temptation to collect and own them, to become a bibliophile in the department of history or literature, often follows; and, unless the collector is wise and conservative, this increasing and generally expensive taste is apt to degenerate into a mere collecting and accumulating habit. His library will grow in books and manuscripts without really stimulating him to study and digest the historical material in store. It seems but a single step from collecting historical works and manuscripts to collecting letters of historic or biographic value; and soon thereafter, unless the victim calls a halt, there is great danger of drifting into that absorbing state of crankiness which leads the collector to devote time, money, and valuable enthusiasm to gathering, classifying, and treasuring commonplace letters, notes, receipts, indeed scraps of paper,...

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